PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE FIFTH SESSION

OF

THE SRI MULAM POPULAR ASSEMBLY

OF

TRAVANCORE.

The Fifth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was held in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, on Monday the 9th November 1908 and the following days.

The constitution of the Assembly was regulated by G. O. No. 456/Political, dated 1st May 1905, which is printed as Appendix A. The members elected by the people and those nominated by Government together numbered 82, and were thus distributed :—

Members elected for the Taluks		66
Do. deputed by the Town Improvement Committees		5
Do. do. by the Representative Associations ...		6
Do. nominated by Government		5
	Total...	82

The Notification dated 8th September 1908 regulating the election of the members and the submission of their memoranda of subjects is published as Appendix B. A list of the members is also published as Appendix C.

The proceedings of the Assembly commenced at 12 noon on the 9th November. Dewan Bahadur P. Rajagopala Chari, Esquire., M. A., B. L., Dewan, presided. There were present Lionel Davidson, Esquire., I. C. S., Acting Resident in Travancore and Cochin; S. Burn, Esquire, I. C. S., Assistant Resident; Mr. T. Sadasiva Iyer, B. A. & M. L., Chief Justice; and other heads of departments and offices and several non-official gentlemen.

The Dewan opened the proceedings of the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,

Under command of His Highness the Maha Raja, I welcome you to the fifth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

2. ***Casualties.***—Before proceeding to give an account of the administration of the year that has elapsed, I have, on behalf of His Highness' Government, to say a few words of appreciation, regarding the superior officers whom we lost from the public service during the year and since its close. The Senior Dewan Peishkar,

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Mr. V. Nagamiah Garu, retired on a well-earned pension, on the 10th Kumbhom 1083. His long and honorable record extended over a period of over 42 years, during which he held some of the highest offices in the State, including the charge of the administration on five occasions. His valuable Census Reports and Manual of the State will always bear testimony to the labours of one of our most cultured officers. Mr. T. Ponnambalam Pillai retired from the Excise Commissionership early in Karkadagam 1083. His service extended over more than 30 years, during which period, he worked in such different departments as the Judicial, Police, Forest and Excise; he discharged his duties throughout with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of His Highness' Government. In Chingom of the current year, we lost in the late Mr. V. I. Kesava Pillai, the Dewan Peishkar of Quilon, an officer of remarkable devotion to duty and one whose thorough knowledge of the land revenue administration of the State was of invaluable help to the Government which he served so well. In the Judicial department, three of our District Judges retired on pension, Messrs. M. Krishna Pillai, H. Ramasubbier and K. Kunjunni Menon, all officers who had put in long and satisfactory service. In Mithunam 1083, Mr. Bourdillon, the Conservator of Forests, went on long leave preparatory to retirement. He was a careful officer and did good work, though handicapped almost throughout for want of a trained staff. Prior to retirement, he wrote an excellent book on the Forest Trees of Travancore, which the officers of his old department find to be of great help to them in their work.

Land Revenue.

3. Current demand.—The current land revenue demand of 1083 was Rs. 29,53,674, against Rs. 29,06,063 in 1082. The subjoined statement shows the gross demand under the different items, the remissions granted, fixed as well as seasonal, and the net demand :—

Years.	Gross demand.				Deduct remissions.			Net demand.
	On wet lands.	On garden and dry lands.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Fixed.	Seasonal.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1082	17,50,834	8,33,702	4,38,811	30,23,347	52,411	64,873	1,17,284	29,06,063
1083	17,54,800	8,75,684	4,14,985	30,45,469	53,617	38,178	91,795	29,53,674

The increase of Rs. 45,948 under wet and garden lands was due to the introduction, during the year, of new (settlement) rates in the taluks of Kottarakara and Pathanapuram settled during the year, and also in the Eraniel taluk which had been settled in 1082. There was a fall of Rs. 23,826 under miscellaneous revenue, due mainly to the circumstance that all extensions of cultivation and consequent increase of revenue, which prior to settlement used to be treated as miscellaneous, were at settlement brought into the ayacut account, either as wet or dry. The reduction of Rs. 26,695 under seasonal remissions, was due to the more favourable nature of the season, as compared with that of the previous year. The net demand rose by Rs. 47,611.

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